

Act 264

Act 264, passed in 1988, requires that Human Services and Public Education work together, involve parents, and coordinate services for better outcomes for children and families. Children with a severe emotional disturbance and/or mental health needs are entitled to a coordinated system of care in accordance with an individual plan.

For more information regarding state legislation and legal mandates between the Agency of Human Services and the Agency of Education please visit these helpful websites:

Act 264 Document on the IFS Website at

ifs.vermont.gov

Vermont Federation of Families for Children
Mental Health

www.vffcmh.org

Vermont Family Network

www.vermontfamilynetwork.org

Coordinated Service Planning Principles

The team will work with your child and family to ensure the following:

- Family voice and choice
- Team Based
- Natural supports/resources
- Collaboration
- Culturally competent
- Individualized
- Strengths based
- Persistence
- Outcome based

For more information in the Lamoille Valley area contact the LIT coordinator at 888-5026

Coordinated Services Planning for Children and Adolescents with Disabilities and Their Families



*What you need to know about
coordination, Act 264, and the AOE/
AHS Interagency Agreement*

What is Coordinated Services Planning?

Sometimes working with a school, a human services provider, or both will sufficiently meet the needs of families with children with disabilities. Children with complex needs often require supports and services across environments including home, school, and community. In situations of high need, it may be helpful to coordinate the services and supports of the family's extended network of family and friends, community members and service providers. Many Families with children who have disabilities are eligible for and ***entitled to coordination of services.***

A Coordinated Services Plan (CSP) can be developed for:

- Children or adolescents who are on an IEP for Emotional Disturbance that impacts his or her academic progress or family or interpersonal relationships.
- Children or adolescents who have a disability and who are eligible for or who are receiving services and service coordination from a regional Agency of Human Services program.

What is included in a CSP?

Developing a coordinated services plan (CSP) involves an interagency team including family members and service providers. Each team is a unique combination of persons, specific to the youth and family. The team's purpose is to explore the child and family's strengths and needs across settings and to develop and implement an effective CSP.

This includes:

- Deciding on goals
- Identifying what is needed to meet those goals
- Writing and implementing the plan
- Coordinating changes over time.

One service provider serves as the lead person to monitor the plan's implementation in a coordinated, timely, and effective manner.

What if the CSP is not Satisfactory?

Most teams develop CSP's that are then implemented. If, however, a team is unable to find a way to agree upon or implement a plan, with parent or guardian permission, anyone on the team may call upon the Local Interagency Team (LIT Team) for assistance when needed to address complex issues or help resolve problems.

Local Interagency Team members include representatives of families, education, mental health, and regional Agency of Human Services programs. Your Local Interagency Team has a coordinator at 888-5026. The Coordinator can connect a family member with the Local Interagency Team's Family Representative. This person can help the family prepare for a meeting with the Local Interagency Team, provide support during the meeting, and follow up with a parent after the meeting regarding questions, concerns, and satisfaction.

What if the Local Interagency Team is unable to resolve the situation?

On occasion, a Local Interagency Team (LIT) may not be able to fully resolve the situation so a referral to the State Interagency Team (SIT) may be needed. This Team acts much as the Local Interagency Team does to review a plan; make recommendations on content, strategies, or sources of support. The State Interagency Team can also commit funds to allow for creative solutions. Neither the Local Interagency Team nor the State Interagency Team can order any agency to provide particular services, however we will work within the boundaries of your regulations and funding sources to provide services.